



April 2020

The latest news from OWLS Multi Academy Trust

Spring newsletter to our schools and communities from the Trust Leader



Welcome to the MAT newsletter for the end of the Spring Term. It has been an eventful Spring term with the national news dominated by Covid19. In the education world, we are already over half way through the year. It is always a busy and important time, and I'd like to thank you for your support and leadership and unswerving commitment to ensuring children and young people across our Trust have the very best education we can deliver.

Lord Agnew visited our New Lubbesthorpe Primary School in February and he was keen to explore our new initiatives and communication processes using the OWL conferencing 360 camera. This has been used successfully for Trustees and Governors meetings and I would encourage the use of this system to communicate as much as feasibly possible. Reducing travelling from school to schools. Especially given our current position.

Our Curriculum groups have met and had various meetings discussing the changing landscape of education and ways forward for the future and our children. We are pursuing the idea of becoming a Values based Trust and will continue to role this model out across our schools. Building on the great work that has been started at Hinckley Parks.

Congratulations to all at Hinckley Parks for achieving School of the year. An amazing achievement and we are all so proud.

This newsletter contains a wealth of information: a range of resources and sources of support are detailed, including from the new Computing Hubs (Beauchamp College is the local hub in our region)

Glenmere Primary School:

The school year came to a sudden break, but despite this the term had been very busy.

This year we have had to invest a huge amount into our ICT as many things had stopped working, we have had a new server, new WIFI and just purchased 32 Google chrome books. We are moving away from the suit and will be teaching it in classroom. We are in the process of building a new website.

This term we had a grow a pound project that was amazing, the whole school worked so hard on this. Children tried different techniques, children bought sponges and washed cars, others got ingredients and made cakes, some made magnets etc. Then the whole school also had a sale with all the products they made in the hall. The project raised £5763.16, which was amazing. Awards were then given to the child in each class that raised the most money and then an award was given to the class that raised the most money.

Each term we now start with a power project, this is a whole school theme, at the start of the year we started the week with a huge UFO landing in the school field, in the spring term a Tardis landed in assembly and various actors came out and went in the classes, such as Shakespeare and Christopher Columbus and then the children asked the different character's questions. These have been very successful.

We continue to offer a variety of enrichment and just before we broke up we had 5 African men come into assembly and performed the most amazing African dance routine, they then ran music and dance workshops and put on a show for the parents, and we have never seen so many children engaged as they were.

This year we have been running a variety of one hour workshops to support our parents. We have run year 5 and 6 preparation, we ran phonics, KS1 and KS2 reading, KS1 writing and we had an educational psychologist come in and run an anxiety workshop for parents. These have all been very well received.

This year we have been working hard to develop our support staff through a variety of INSET. Support staff had a full day training on Phonics and spelling work, provided by an SLE. They also had a full KS2 math's training, provide by a specialist math's teacher and then 3 twilight session followed this. They have also had two days of Reading Coaching training.

The teachers continue to attend a wide variety of training through AFFINITY, our teaching school that we moved to. This has provided training for all foundation coordinator's, there have been a variety of Teach Meets on grammar, poetry and math's, and these are really useful as they provide training that is year group specific. There has been a history, art and music community that coordinators have attended. 6 staff went on strategic planning training, that was really useful and a variety of deep dives were completed. As management, we have been on a variety of training about the curriculum, visited a school in Nottingham that achieved World class status and all year groups have had moderation training and our curriculum lead has attended a series of curriculum network meetings. We have also joined pupil premium, science and assessments networks.

Langmoor Primary School:

Even though our Spring term has been short it has been filled with lots of exciting things that have happened in school. We welcomed Mrs Cain who joined us to work with one of our SEND children and she has settled in really well. Our Year 5 and 6 Quicksticks Hockey team won the tournament and we now have a trophy sitting with the others in the foyer. The annual Science day was held in March and was a huge success. We had lots of parents in to help and the children spent the day looking at different ways to support the environment. The children were split up into different groups and enjoyed the challenges that were put to them. Miss Ayub and the PTA did a great job of organising the day. Mrs Mayer-Gibb organised our World Book Day activities and again we had lots of parents in reading with the children. Lots of different book activities were completed and the children really enjoyed themselves. We are waiting to hear about our CIF bid for our new roof and hope that despite how things are we will be successful in that. Our numbers for next year are looking healthy for our EYFS. Stay Safe everyone.

Little Hill Primary School:

The spring term at Little Hill has seen many successes for the pupils. Science Day was a roaring success! Through our partnership with the University of Leicester, we were lucky enough to have 7 professional scientists come into school to run various science workshops.

The whole day gave the children fantastic opportunities to carry out tests, learn about the various roles and responsibilities of scientists and encounter new areas of life they had no knowledge of before.

World book day saw the children dressing up as a professional they wanted to be when they were older. All of the pupils found nonfiction books to support their costumes. Assembly was fun with a professionals' cat walk looking at the attributes and education needed to achieve such successes.

We continue to develop our curriculum through coaching days with coordinators and were pleased to have very positive outcomes from a recent external school review under the new Ofsted framework.

We look forward to getting back to school as quickly as possible.

Fernvale Primary School:

Fernvale pupils have had sporting success this term. A team of year 6 dodgeball players came third in a competition against other schools in the Oadby and Wigston area. The team worked exceptionally hard together and demonstrated not only great team work but also fantastic tactical play.

All classes at Fernvale have been participating in the daily boost which is 15 minutes of activity during the school day. Activities range from dance sessions to skipping to stuck in the mud; anything that gets the heart rate up and helps children to achieve the government target of at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day. All classes have embraced these sessions and their hard work was rewarded by a visit from Zoom, the Daily Boost mascot, who led a whole school boost session in assembly and helped to hand out achievement bands to every child.

At the start of the half term holiday the six classroom modular building arrived and has now been installed with internal furnishings. The building is due to be available for pupils to use next academic year and is in preparation for the increase in pupil numbers. The school is changing from a single form entry school to a two form entry school over time.

Hinckley Parks Primary School

Despite being brought to a premature end last week, it has been another busy, exciting and successful term for all at Hinckley Parks. Like everyone, we are devastated by the school closure and we will all miss the children tremendously. The year six children and team were particularly disappointed as we were very confident of achieving an excellent set of end of key stage two results.

During this term we have continued to develop our curriculum. We have delivered a whole school RSE program (Spring Fever) which parents and children have responded positively to. The wider curriculum has been further enhanced through regular trips out of school – Y6 to the National Justice Centre, Y5 to Bosworth Field and The King Richard III Centre and Foundation stage to the local library - and also by welcoming visitors into school. Year 3 enjoyed a very successful and educational themed day on the Romans and the whole school benefitted from a day with the RE Roadshow team.

Sport continues to be a predominant feature of the school with so many opportunities provided for the children. We have been proud to host two football tournaments for local schools this term (Y5/6 & Y3/4) as well as hosting the local area school's netball tournament

which we won without losing a single game. We have also competed in a tag rugby tournament and also took part in cross country and the swimming gala. In gymnastics our Y5/6 team qualified for the School Games Super-Series county finals, the furthest we have ever got in this competition!

We have continued to develop the school environment with colourful playground markings having been installed which the children are enjoying making the most of. We have also taken part in the national Sport Relief campaign and thoroughly enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day.

We were delighted to receive the School of the Year award at the end of the autumn term and have added to this by being awarded the Enhanced Healthy School status for the work we do around emotional health and well-being.

We have lots planned for the summer term and are looking forward to welcoming two new teachers to the school, Miss Allsopp and Miss Wallace. We just hope that the school re-opens soon so that we can all once again enjoy our school.

New Lubbesthorpe Primary School:

The second term at New Lubbesthorpe has been busy, successful and exciting as we continue to grow and develop our brand-new school. This term, we have had 5 new starters, taking our total number of children to 44 across EYFS and Year 1. We look forward to welcoming a full cohort of 60 EYFS children this coming September. In preparation for this, we have taken on two new teachers who will start in the Autumn Term and we are currently looking to employ support staff too. We have also welcomed a lunchtime supervisor this term so our number of staff is steadily increasing and we are developing into a strong and supportive team.

Thanks to our parents, we have now established a PTA who have already organised and undertaken a number of events this term. They hosted a 'Pancake Day Sale' on Shrove Tuesday, where families were invited to make pancakes together and could also purchase cakes and sweets to take home. They also planned a 'Mother's Day Gift Shop' where children selected, bought and wrapped gifts to take home for their mums for Mothering Sunday. We are thankful for the money these events have brought into our school. From the funds from these two events, the PTA presented the classes with a gift of audio books and a CD player and the remainder has been put towards our fund for our new library that we hope to open in the next academic year. The PTA had many other exciting events planned but unfortunately, these have been put on hold due to the school closure; we look forward to these events being rescheduled when we are able to re-open. The school took part in the national celebrations for 'World Book Day' on Thursday 5th March. On this day, the children were invited to come to school dressed up as a character of their choice from a book. They took part in a range of fun activities relating to reading in the classroom to help nurture a love of books and to highlight the importance of reading. A PTA group has been formed and they are actively working within the community and raising funds. Fitness classes have been running at the school for all Trust employees.

We have continued to develop our learning environment with the arrival of new resources, furniture and equipment. The children have particularly enjoyed using our new PE equipment and this has greatly aided their physical development, an area that is so important in the EYFS. As well as focusing on the learning environment, we continue to work to develop our curriculum, especially that for Years 1 and 2 as we prepare for our children to move up into KS1. The children have particularly enjoyed the immersive 'hooks' for learning that we build

into the start of all new topics, perhaps most notably when they found dinosaurs in the classroom!

Additional Information:

We continue to utilise training and events with Teaching Schools from across Leicestershire and this has brought additional funding into our schools. We continue to support other schools as a National support school and Multi Academy Trust.

Our local communities should be very proud of how well our children are doing and we remain committed to the original aim of providing the very best opportunities for our children.

The Governors, Trustees and Members agree that the Multi Academy Trust is continually developing and evolving and we are all working hard to deliver the best opportunities possible for all of our pupils, parents and staff. I would also like to thank everyone who volunteers and supports our academies and MAT within the roles of governance. Often giving over and above, to support our communities. Thank you.

Get Involved:

Free period products in schools and colleges

DfE have launched a new scheme to provide access to free period products in primary schools, secondary schools and 16-19 organisations in England.

The scheme will support those who have come on their period unexpectedly, forgotten to bring products with them or who can't afford the products they need, to ensure that no young person's education is disrupted by their period.

Schools and colleges can choose from a range of period products and decide how to distribute these to their learners. Schools are encouraged to engage learners, parents and carers in these decisions.

[Find out more about the scheme and view the guidance >](#)

Levelling up funding for schools

From next year every school will get more money for every child in every classroom, and there will be big increases for the schools that need it most.

This government is investing an additional £2.6 billion in 2020-21, and an additional £7.1 billion a year by 2022-23.

The Government set out provisional allocations for schools and local authorities under the National Funding Formula in October. In December, it confirmed those allocations for local authorities, based on the latest pupil numbers.

[Find out more >](#)

Find a Maths hub near you

There are now 37 Maths hubs across England.

These school-to-school support networks are leading transformational change in mathematics teaching and draw on expertise from key stakeholders and experts. Teachers from thousands of primary schools and hundreds of secondary schools have participated in Teaching for Mastery projects, leading to both teacher professional development and school or department wide improvements to maths learning.

[Find out more about the Maths hubs >](#)

English Hubs Programme - improve early reading practice

The English Hubs Programme (EHP) aims to improve the teaching of early reading by improving the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics, encouraging early language development, and developing a love of reading.

Our 34 English hubs provide support to primary schools across England to improve their early reading practice.

Find your local hub on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and contact them to find out more.

Computing Hubs are now live

There are 30 Computing Hubs up and running across England.

These support schools to improve their computing teaching throughout England, by equipping computing teachers with the knowledge they need to teach to a high standard through CPD and working with local experts.

[Contact your local hub](#) to learn more about the support you could receive.

Find your local Music hub

Music education hubs aim to provide children from all backgrounds with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, make music with others and learn to sing.

There are 120 hubs offering a range of support to your school, from whole-class, small group

or individual instrumental lessons to opportunities for pupils to play and sing in ensembles, and CPD for staff.

[Find out more >](#)

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and hard work in this unprecedented period.

The way our schools and Trust have collaborated with each other and with the LA during the massive change in the last three weeks. The way Trusts and schools work collaboratively across different initiatives embodies this approach. It's great to see it during this time of trial.

Thanks also for ensuring that every key worker who really needs their children caring for has the opportunity to be helped – both those of you who started with the one key worker based on need rule and those who have moved to it. I know it's been tough – for staff and for planning.

I recognise the last three weeks have been extraordinary and while we're closer to steady state we're not there yet. I hope all are safe and this period passes quickly for us.

Have a restful Easter break and we look forward to the Summer Terms challenges. Thank you also to those members of staff who have offered and are working over Easter. Amazing!

Thank you again for all you do and thank you for your ongoing support.

OWLS Academy Trust

Trust Leader

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P. Meng', is positioned below the typed name 'Trust Leader'.